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GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
(FOOD DISTRIBUTION BRANCH)

NOTIFICATION

The 8th July, 2026

No.S.O.34/C.A.10/1955/S.3/2026.- In exercise of powers conferred by section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (Central Act No.10 of 1955), read with clause 9 of the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) order, 2015, issued by the Government of India, Department of Food and Public Distribution, vide GSR No. 213 (E) dated the 20th March, 2015, and all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Governor of Punjab is pleased to make the following Order further to amend the Punjab Targeted Public Distribution System (Licensing and Control) Order, 2016, namely:-

ORDER

1. (1) This order may be called the Punjab Targeted Public Distribution System (Licensing and Control) (Amendment) Order, 2026.

(2) It shall come into force on and with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Punjab Targeted Public Distribution System (Licensing and Control) Order, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the said Order), after clause 9, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"9-A. Initial license and probation period for new fair price shops.-

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Order, a fresh licence issued to a new applicant for operating a fair price shop, shall be valid for an initial period of one year only. During this period, the licensee shall be on probation.

(2) Upon satisfactory completion of the one-year probation period, the licence shall be regularized and renewed, subject to the licensee's full compliance with all operational requirements, proper maintenance of records, adherence to distribution norms and scales, and observance of all directions and guidelines issued under this Order during the probation period.

(3) During the probation period, the licensing authority shall continuously monitor and assess the licensee's functioning, conduct, and overall

suitability, including compliance with the provisions of this Order and any complaints or deficiencies observed in the operation of the fair price shop.

(4) If the licensee's performance is not found to be satisfactory, or if there is any violation of the provisions of this Order or the conditions of the licence during the probation period, the licensing authority may, at any time, suspend, cancel, or withdraw the licence, and may also refuse renewal and regularization thereafter, without prejudice to any other action that may be taken under this Order.

(5) The grant of an initial fair price shop licence under this clause shall not confer any vested or absolute right on the licensee to claim automatic continuation, renewal, or regularization of the licence after the expiry of the one-year probation period."

3. In the said Order, in Clause 18, for sub-clause (1), the following sub-clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(1) The licence fee for the initial licence granted under Clause 9-A shall be levied and collected for an initial period of one year, at the rate specified for a fair price shop licence under this Order or by notification under this Order from time to time. Further a licence under this Order may be renewed upto a period of five years at the request in Form 'A' of fair price shop owner and shall, unless previously suspended or revoked, expire on the 31st day of March of the year upto which it is renewed following the date of its last renewal.

Sd/-
RAHUL TEWARI, IAS,
Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Food, Civil Supplies and
Consumer Affairs.

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